



The Shell

An e-letter for

Saint James the Greater Church,
3565 Hubble Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

May 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

As we face the resumption of public Masses on Monday, May 25, I offer a few things as reminders. They have all been said before, but as stores open up and public Masses resume, there is the danger of thinking things are back to what they were like. That will never happen. Please remember these points.

- 1) The Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati **continue to be dispensed** from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass.
- 2) If someone wants to return to participation in Mass, they should seriously consider attending a weekday Mass rather than weekend. The congregation will probably be smaller.
- 3) That one can go to Mass doesn't mean one should.
- 4) Those who are at risk or fearful that they or their family might become sick are encouraged to stay home and join the Church by viewing Mass on TV or live-streamed Masses.
- 5) If you have been in any type of large gathering where social distancing and face coverings were not practiced, please consider staying at home.
- 6) It is expected that **everyone** will follow the proper procedures when they come to Mass. Knowing that not everyone receives **The Shell**, the protocols were mailed to every parishioner. You have not gotten it yet, but when it comes, read it and save it for reference as we move ahead. A copy is attached to this **Shell**.

Father Nolker

Deaths

Mary Richter, wife of the late John "Jack" Richter died on May 13, 2020

May 14, 2020

INFORMATION ABOUT MASSES AFTER MAY 25

Beginning on May 25, Mass may be again celebrated publicly with a congregation. This information is given to you because there are guidelines to be followed by all of us.

The Catholic faithful who reside in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati continue to be dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass.

Those who are at risk or fearful that they or their family might become sick are encouraged to stay home and join the Church by viewing Masses on TV or that are livestreamed.

Catholics who wish to participate in Mass are encouraged to attend on any day of the week instead of Saturday/Sunday when there might be larger attendances.

Mass will be celebrated at Saint James:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	8:30 a.m.
Saturday (Sunday Mass)	4:30 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Some regulations for our church have been set to comply with the recommended best practices for resuming Mass. They are:

1. 6-foot social distancing is required at all times.
2. There will be reduced capacity for the church. Attendance should not exceed approximately 150-200 people.
3. To help with appropriate distance and reduction of capacity, every other pew will not be used. The pews that will **NOT** be used will be marked.
4. Family members who live together may sit together. Family members who do not reside together should follow the 6-foot rule.
5. No social gatherings, conversations, etc. should be held in the church before or after Mass. There should not be gatherings in the entrances of the church.
6. Parishioners should not visit either the Hubble Road or South Sacristies unless it is for a very necessary purpose. These purposes would be to sign-in for a ministry, etc. There should be no additional conversation while doing these activities.
7. Inside doors will be propped open so nobody has to touch handles.
8. At each door, there will be a basket for your offertory collection. Place your money or envelope in the basket as you enter the church. There will not be a collection at the usual time.
9. After Mass, we ask that everyone leave in a way that does not create crowds at any entrance. People can delay leaving until there is enough room near the doors to exit safely. Bulletins will still be given out as usual and the ushers will have sanitized their hands.

While there are many stipulations about celebrating Mass for the ministers, **EVERYONE** in the congregation should follow these:

1. Hand sanitizer will be available at each of the three entrances. Please use it when you arrive at church.
2. Everyone is encouraged to wear a face covering, except the priest and readers as they minister.
3. No physical contact should be made at the sign of peace or any other time.
4. Keep the 6-foot distance while approaching for Holy Communion.
5. Holy Communion will be distributed in the hand. Our Communion distributors are being trained to put the Host in your hand without touching your hand. (Receiving Communion on the tongue permits the aspiration of possible moisture containing the virus onto the fingers of the distributor, who in turn spreads it to the next person. The only safe way to distribute on the tongue is to sanitize between each person receiving.) The Precious Blood will not be distributed.

Precautions already in place:

1. Holy water fonts will remain empty.
2. There will not be a procession of the bread and wine at the Preparation of the Altar and Gifts.

Other things you will notice:

1. Father will have the Missal on the altar for all prayers.
2. Servers will not minister during the week. If some volunteer, 1 will be used at Saturday/Sunday Masses.
3. Father will not be distributing Holy Communion at weekend liturgies. (This follows the guidance from the Archbishop: “The health and safety of vulnerable priests should also be considered...”)
4. Hymnals will be removed from the church. Music will be familiar and simplified. The choirs will not sing.
5. Only one reader will be assigned for the weekend Masses to limit the number of people using the ambo.
6. Children’s Liturgy of the Word at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass is suspended for the time being.

Our church will be thoroughly cleaned on Fridays and Mondays each week.

We are not reinstating the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 6:30 a.m. on weekdays.

We are not reinstating exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Mondays at this time. The church will be open during the week for adoration at the tabernacle from 9 am to 5 pm.